

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: U.S.-SPONSORED STUDY GROUP IN JORDAN

REF: AMMAN 3731, 3937

1. WE HAVE SPOKEN MANY TIMES WITH DR. O'BANION OF LEAGUE FOR INNOVATION; PATRICIA YOUNG AND OTHERS AT HEW OFFICE OF EDUCATION RE FINANCIAL PLIGHT OF GROUP OF U.S. JUNIOR COLLEGE TEACHERS IN JORDAN.

2. CASE IS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED. BASICALLY, TEACHERS' GROUP DEPARTED U.S. BEFORE HEW HAD COMPLETED GRANT DOCUMENTS AND BEFORE LEAGUE FOR INNOVATION HAD RECEIVED ANY HEW FUNDS. HEW STATES "WITHIN NEAR FUTURE" LEAGUE SHOULD RECEIVE APPROPRIATE GRANT DOCUMENTS AGAINST WHICH LEAGUE CAN BORROW FUNDS TO SEND TO TEACHERS' GROUP IN JORDAN. HOWEVER, O'BANION STATES, AT PRESENT, WITHOUT SUCH GRANT DOCUMENTS, LEAGUE HAS NO MEANS TO SUPPORT TEACHERS, WHO WILL, ACCORDING TO O'BANION, CONTINUE TO HAVE TO RELY ON WHATEVER PERSONAL RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM. WHEN WE INFORMED

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O'BANION THAT TEACHERS' SITUATION WAS EMBARRASSMENT TO ALL CONCERNED IN JORDAN, AND AS SUCH BODES ILL FOR FUTURE, SIMILAR, PROGRAMS FOR U.S. JUNIOR COLLEGES, HE WAS SYMPATHETIC, BUT WITHOUT GRANT DOCUMENTS IN HAND ACKNOWLEDGED THE LEAGUE HAD NO MEANS TO SUPPORT THE GROUP.

3. HEW, ALSO INFORMED OF GROUP'S DIFFICULT SITUATION, RE-

PORDED THEY ARE EXPEDITING GRANT. HOWEVER, TEACHERS
DEPARTED U.S. WITH ASSUMPTION, BUT NOT ASSURANCE, THAT
FUNDS WOULD FOLLOW SOON AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL IN JORDAN.
APPARENTLY, GROUP'S EAGERNESS TO GET OUT IN THE FIELD
OVERRODE THE ECONOMIC REALITIES OF THEIR SITUATION.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS BOTH HEW AND O'BANION TO
COME UP WITH SOME SOLUTION TO ALLEVIATE GROUP'S SITUATION.
VANCE

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